GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1760
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Restructuring of RPF
Khan Shri Md. Badariddoza

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and policing in the Railways badly need restructuring and revamping and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether RPF requires more legal support to tackle the menace of crime in the railway network; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Railways in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
*****

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1760 BY SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 04.05.2016 REGARDING RESTRUCTURING OF RPF

(a) to (c): Prevention of crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of law and order in Railway premises as well as on running trains are the statutory responsibility of the States which is being discharged by them through the Government Railway Police (GRP). Besides sharing 50% cost on GRPs with respective States. Railways, through the Railway Protection Force (RPF), are supplementing efforts of States to ensure security of passengers and passenger area. In addition, concerned District Police is responsible for security of tracks, bridges, tunnels and law & order issues.

In view of multiplicity of law enforcement agencies, overlapping of role and responsibilities of these agencies, problem of inter-State coordination, duplicity of manpower & resources, some times there is confusion among travelling passengers with regard to registration of First Information Report (FIR), etc.

RPF has been entrusted with the responsibility of protection and security of passengers and passenger area, with the amendments in the RPF Act and the Railways Act in the year 2003, without commensurate legal powers, which is proving a major hindrance in controlling crime against passengers. RPF needs legal powers to deal with passenger related offences to strengthen security of passengers and passenger area over Indian Railways.

A proposal for amendment in the RPF Act, 1957, to empower RPF to deal with passenger related offences in the passenger area, has been moved by the Ministry of Railways with the concurrence of Ministries of Law and Justice and Home Affairs. As advised by the Cabinet Secretariat, comments of States have been solicited on the above proposal. Comments have so far been received from 26 States. 18 States/Union Territories (UT) have opposed the move to amend the RPF Act, 07 States/UT have given their consent, 01 UT has not offered any comment and reply is awaited from 06 States. However, Ministry of Home Affairs has recently conveyed their opposition to the proposed amendments in the RPF Act. Matter is being further considered in the Ministry of Railways.
****